

The Final Frontier for Satellite Laser Ranging: Antarctica

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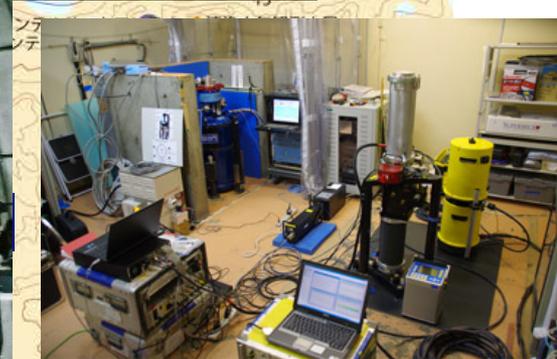
⁴ Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory,

⁵ NASA/GSFC

* International Laser Ranging Service



Syowa: Best equipped geodetic site in Antarctica

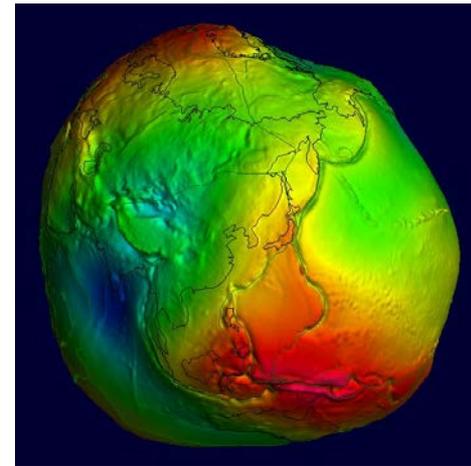


SLR (Satellite Laser Ranging)
Future? Site Survey done in JARE59.

➔ **Geodesy is important.**
Geodesy is exciting.

SLR x Antarctica is important.

SLR x Antarctica is exciting.



The First UN Resolution on Geodesy

The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) recognized since its inception the growing demand for more precise positioning services, the economic importance of a global geodetic reference frame and the need to improve the global cooperation within geodesy.

<http://ggim.un.org>



General Assembly, 26 February 2015

Photo: Kyoung-Soo Eom



GGOS: Global Geodetic Observing System

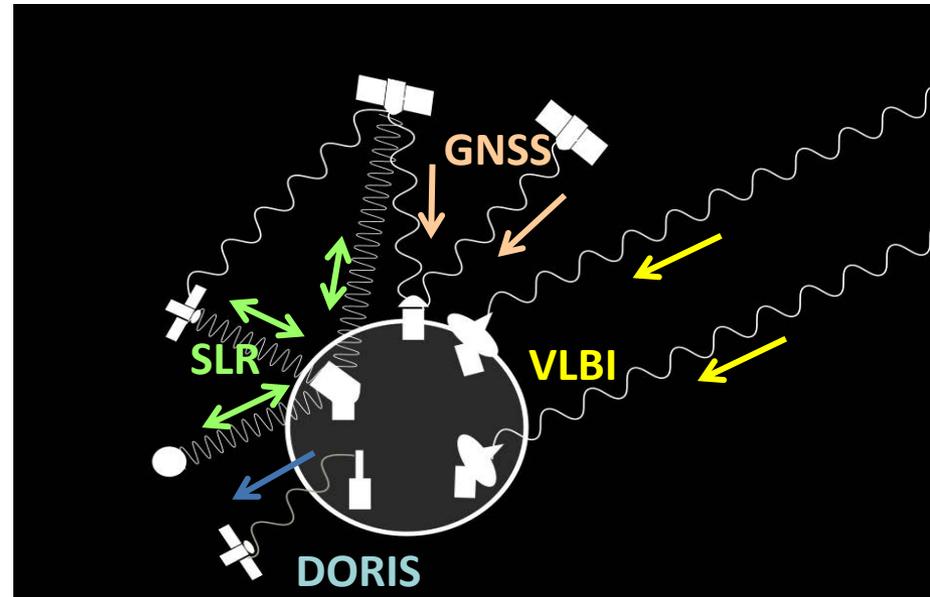
Vision: Advancing our understanding of the dynamic Earth system by quantifying our planet's changes in space and time.



New President (1 Nov 2019): B Miyahara (GSI)

Integration of Geodetic techniques

GGOS Core Station:
equipped with VLBI,
SLR and GNSS
(and more).



Latest trends in/around geodesy

Geodesy for everyone?

Low-cost & high-precision-positioning GNSS receivers.

Strong demand for high-precision 3-D maps.

New countries. Worldwide collaboration.

New Sciences in/from Geodesy

New technologies and new satellite missions.

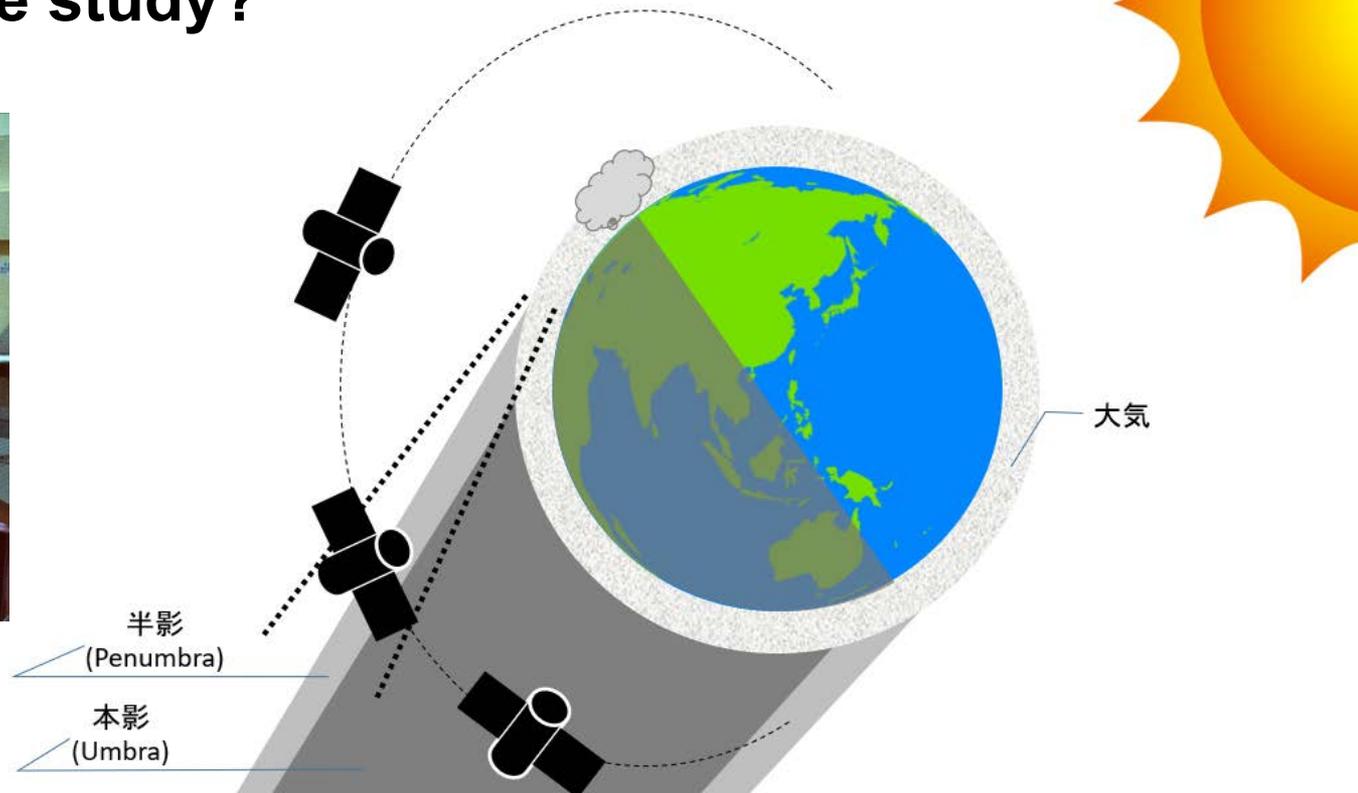
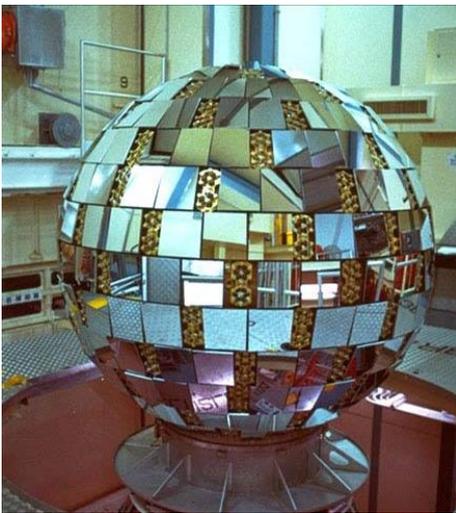
Wide application to Seismology, Volcanology,
Oceanography, Hydrology, Atmosphere, Ionosphere,
Cryosphere, Planetary Science, ...

Solar Radiation Pressure → Total Solar Irradiance

Hattori & Otsubo (2019)

Supports TSI = 1361 W/m² from Ajisai Orbit analysis

Precise orbit determination to contribute to the Earth energy balance study?



Earth Radiation Pressure

→ Optical properties of Earth surface

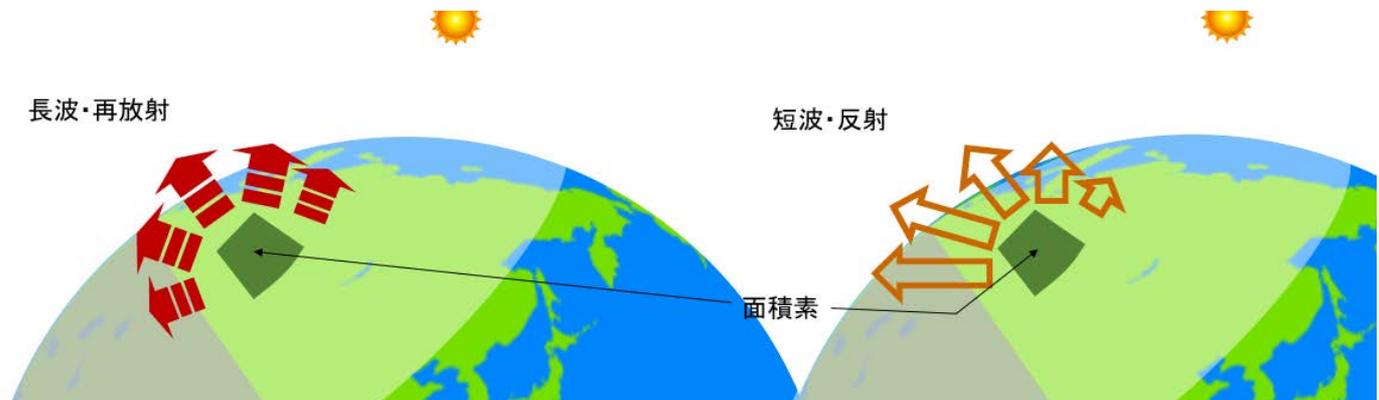
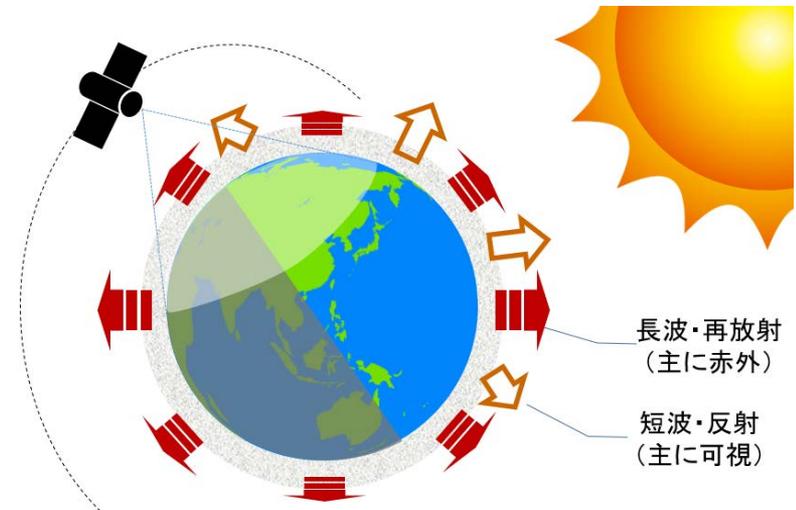
Earth radiation pressure

= IR + Albedo

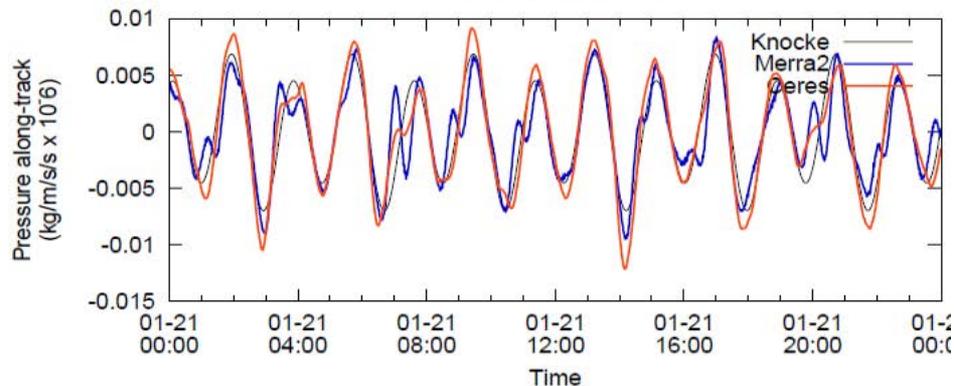
~ 10-30% of SRP

IR: Cloud coverage, temperature

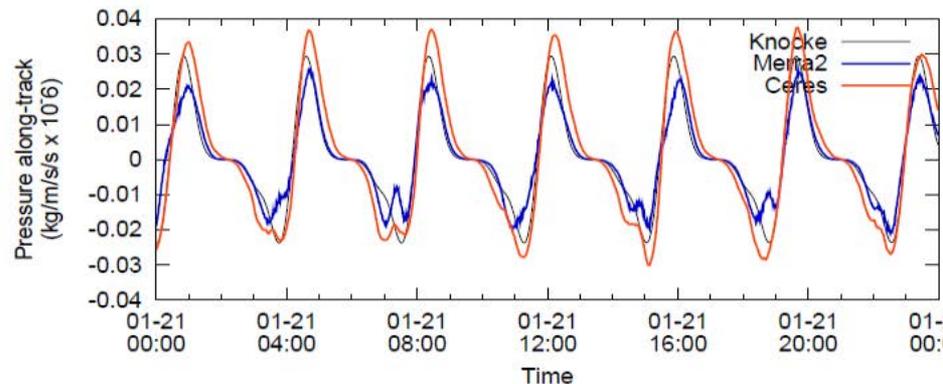
Albedo: Surface & cloud coverage



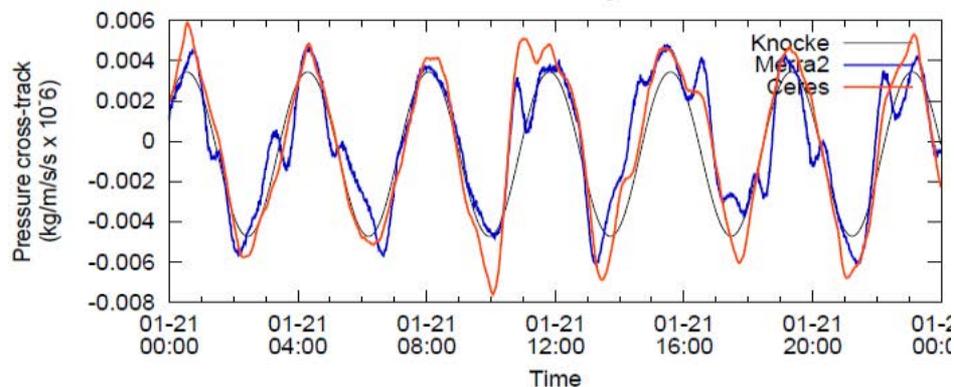
LAGEOS-1 Longwave



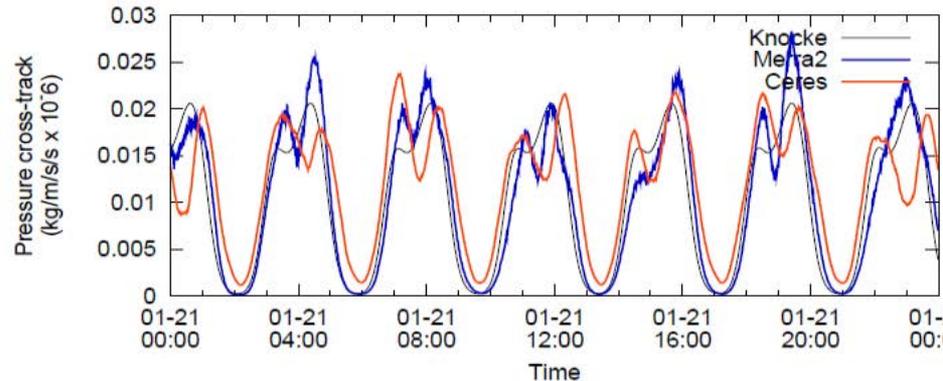
LAGEOS-1 Shortwave



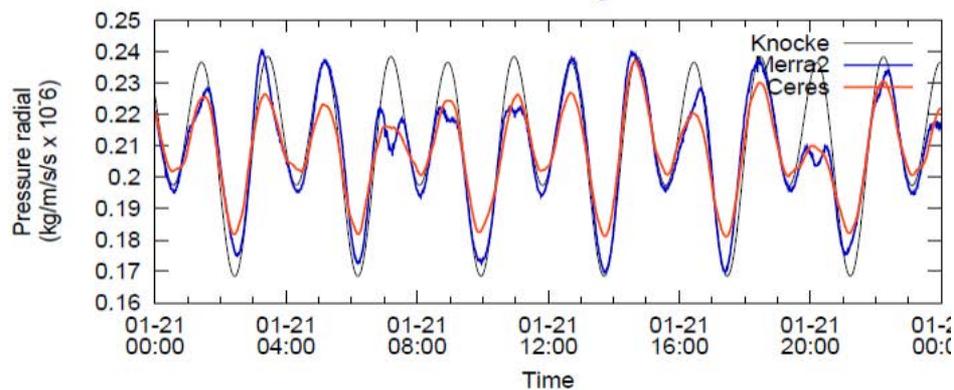
LAGEOS-1 Longwave



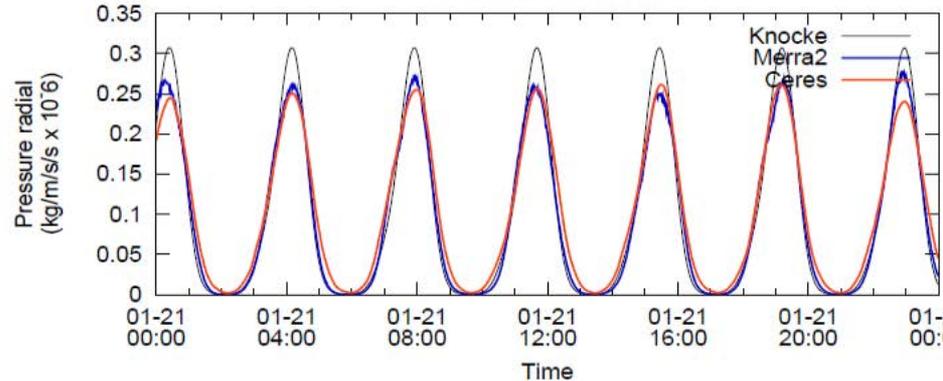
LAGEOS-1 Shortwave



LAGEOS-1 Longwave



LAGEOS-1 Shortwave



Geodesy is important.

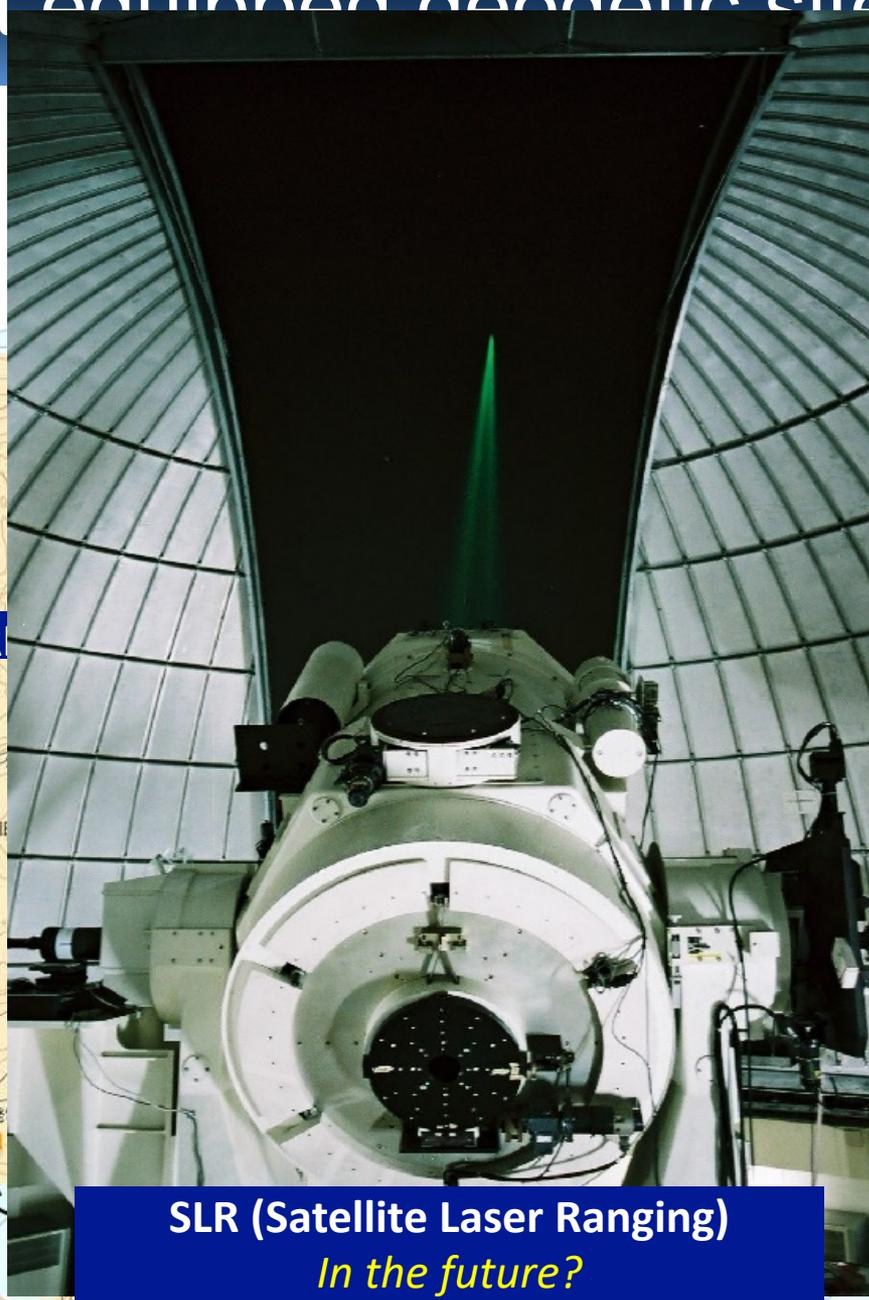
Geodesy is exciting.

➔ **SLR x Antarctica** is important.

SLR x Antarctica is exciting.



Syowa: Best equipped geodetic site in Antarctica



SLR (Satellite Laser Ranging)
In the future?

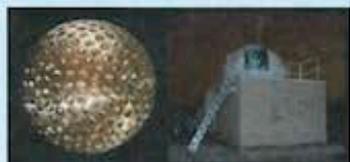
The Global Geodetic Observing System



Global Geodetic
Observing System

Syowa Station National Institute of Polar Research

is a member of the
GGOS Space Geodesy Network



Richard A. Gross

Richard Gross, Chair
Global Geodetic Observing System

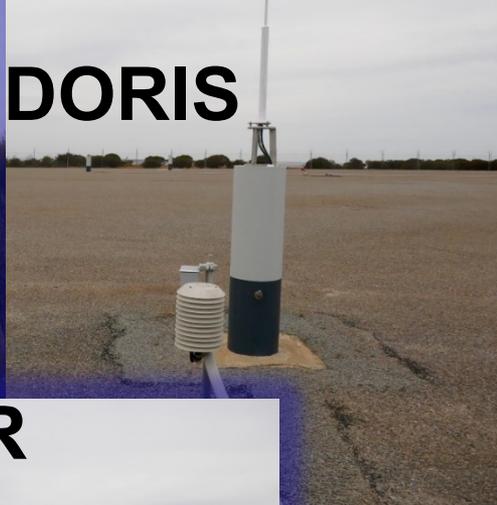
Michael R. Pearlman

Michael Pearlman, Director
GGOS Bureau of Networks and Observations

VLBI



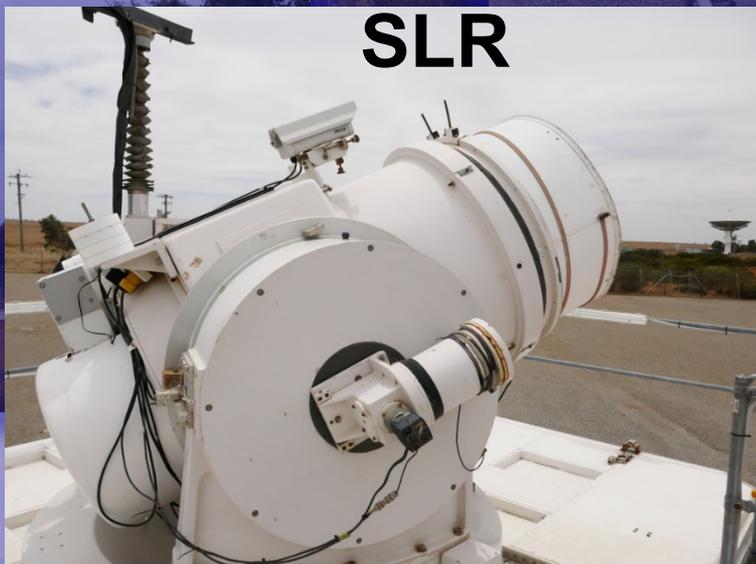
DORIS



2 Nov 2018



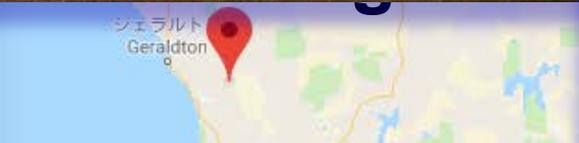
SLR



GNSS



ジェラルト
Geraldton



VLBI
VLBI



GNSS



DORIS



15 Dec 2016



VLBI



ハイム・アン
ドナウ
デア・プリンツ



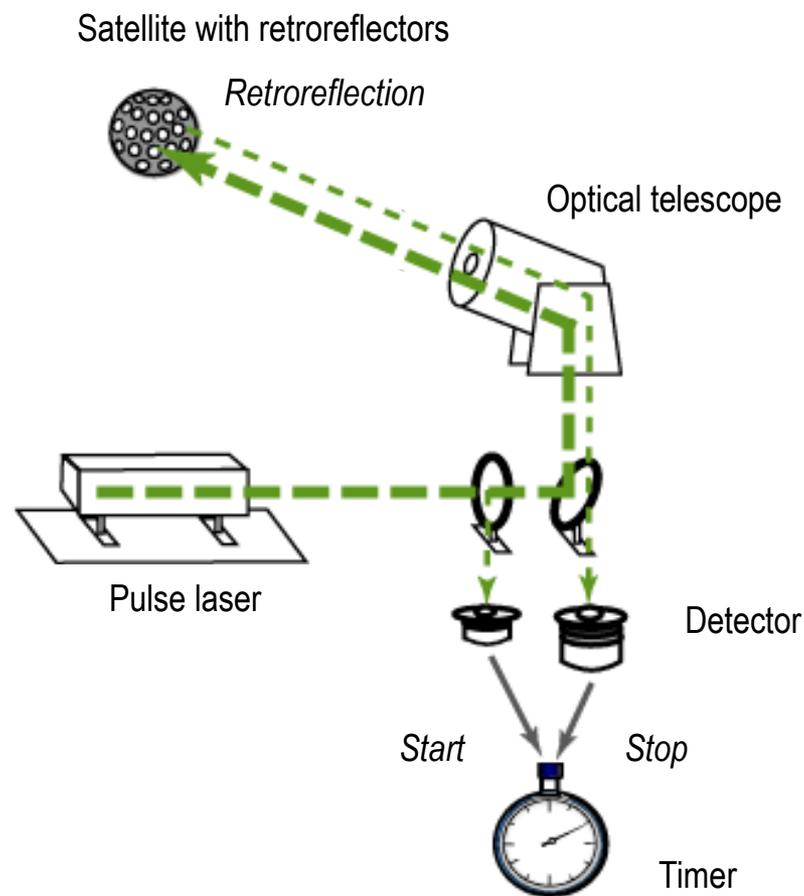
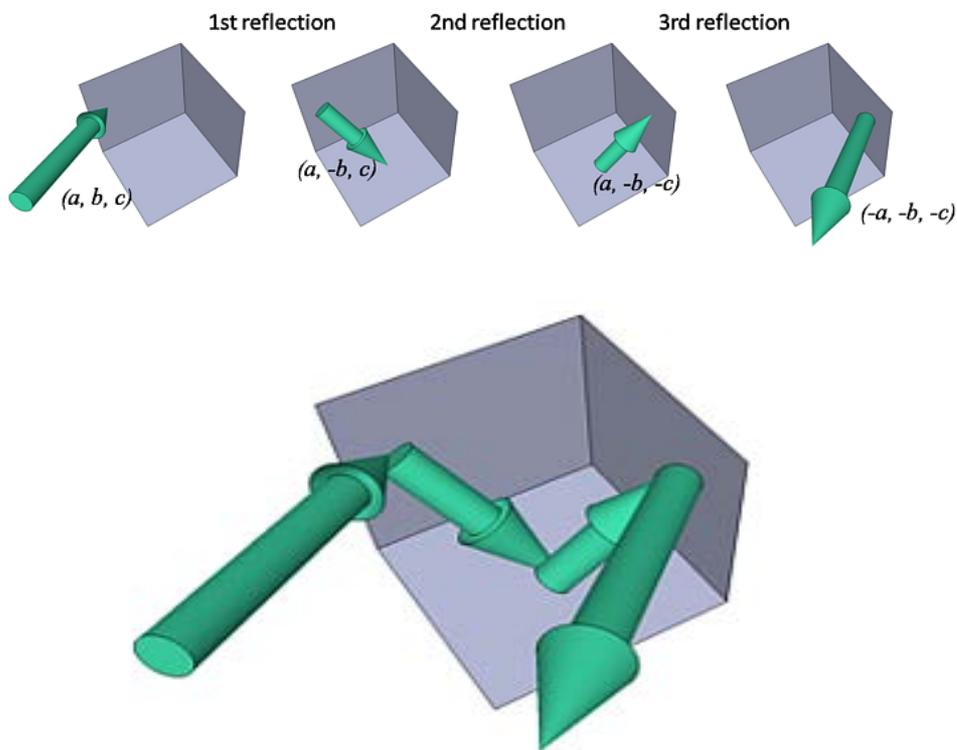
SLR



SLR



SLR: Satellite Laser Ranging





Welcome to ILRS

About ILRS

Network

Missions

Science

Data & Products

Technology

Overview

Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) and Lunar Laser Ranging (LLR) use short-pulse lasers and state-of-the-art optical receivers and timing electronics to measure the two-way time of flight (and hence distance) from ground stations to retroreflector arrays on Earth orbiting satellites and the Moon. Scientific products derived using SLR and LLR data include precise geocentric positions and motions of ground stations, satellite orbits, components of Earth's gravity field and their temporal variations, Earth Orientation Parameters (EOP), precise lunar ephemerides and information about the internal structure of the Moon. Laser ranging systems are already measuring the one-way distance to remote optical receivers in space and can perform very accurate time transfer between sites far apart. Laser ranging activities are organized under the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS) which provides global satellite and lunar laser ranging data and their derived data products to support research in geodesy, geophysics, Lunar science, and fundamental constants. This includes data products that are fundamental to the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) which is established

Welcome



NGSLR Greenbelt, MD

Highlights



The 2019 ILRS Technical Workshop presentations and other information now available

Release Date: 11/06/2019

The 2019 ILRS Technical Workshop was held October 21-24, 2019 in Stuttgart, Germany. In addition, the first "SLR School" was held prior to the workshop on October 20. All abstracts, presentations, posters, and summary information from the workshop and the SLR School are available on the website:

Recent News

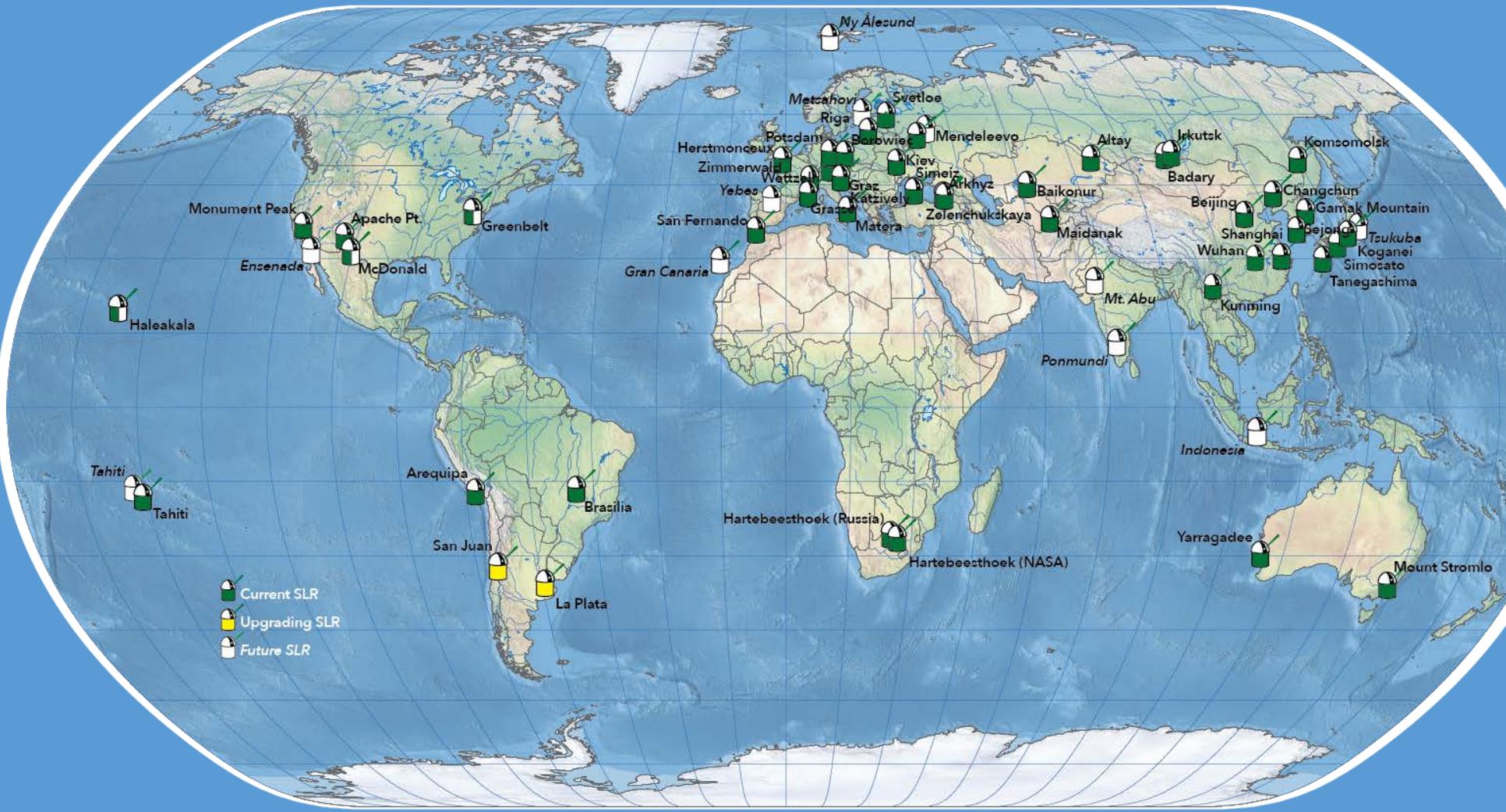
- The 2019 ILRS Technical Workshop presentations and other information now available - The 2019 ILRS Technical Workshop was held October 21-24, 2019 in Stuttgart, Germany. In addition, the first "SLR School" was held prior to the workshop on October 20. All abstracts, presentations, posters, and summary information from the workshop and the SLR School are available on the website:

https://cddis.nasa.gov/2019_Technical_Workshop

- The Jason-2 mission has ended - The Jason-2/Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM), the third in a U.S.-European series of satellite missions designed to measure sea surface height, successfully ended its science mission on Oct. 1. NASA and its mission partners made the decision to end the mission after detecting deterioration in the spacecraft's power system.

[Read more about the Jason-2 mission...](#)

ILRS network



What is good about SLR

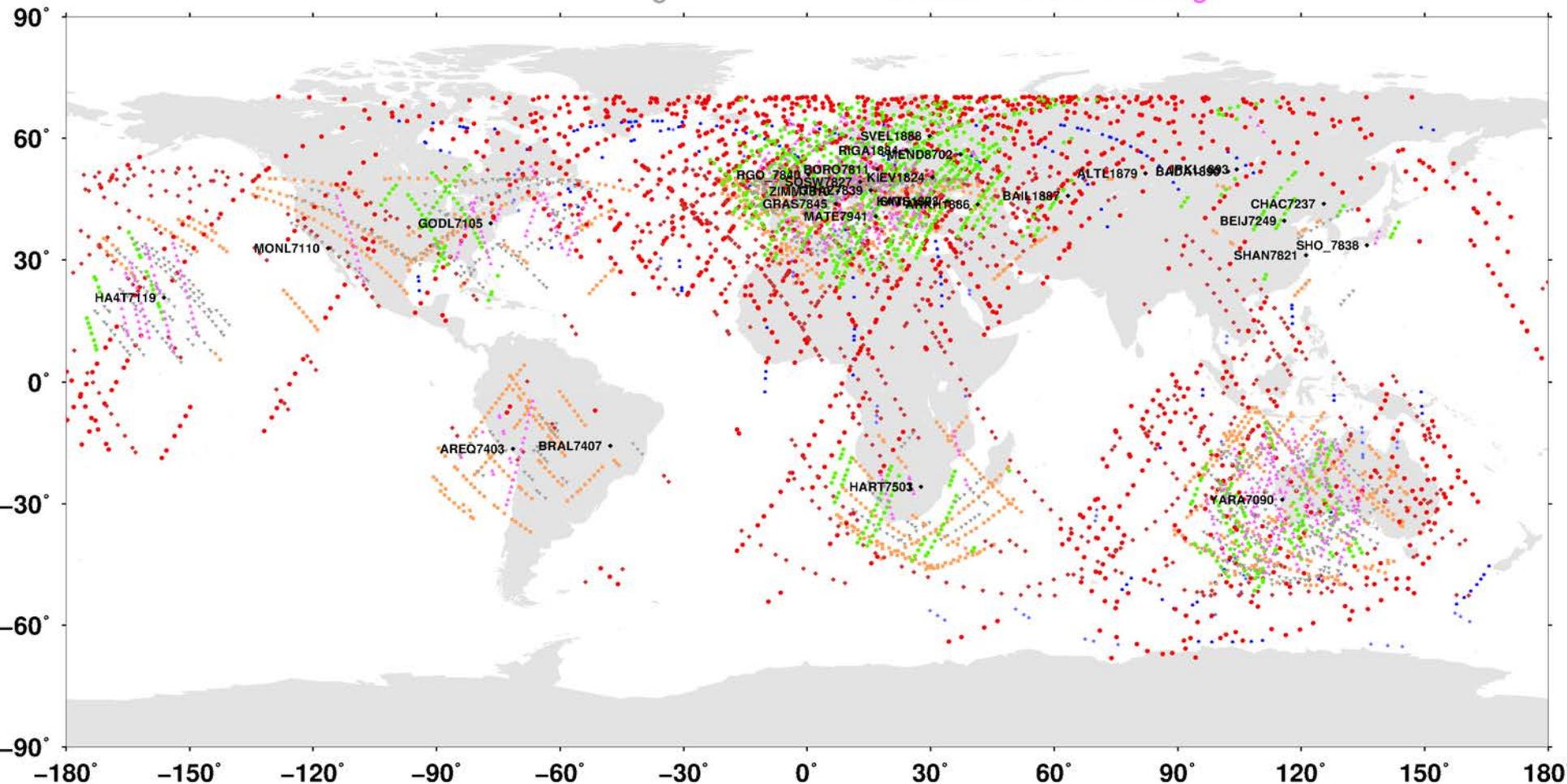
- **Optical wavelength**
 - No delay in ionosphere. Better delay model for troposphere.
- **2-way range**
 - Robust over clock error/fluctuation.
- **Long-time continuity**
 - Suitable for earth monitoring.
- **Wide applications**
 - (shown later)

What is good about installing SLR in Antarctica

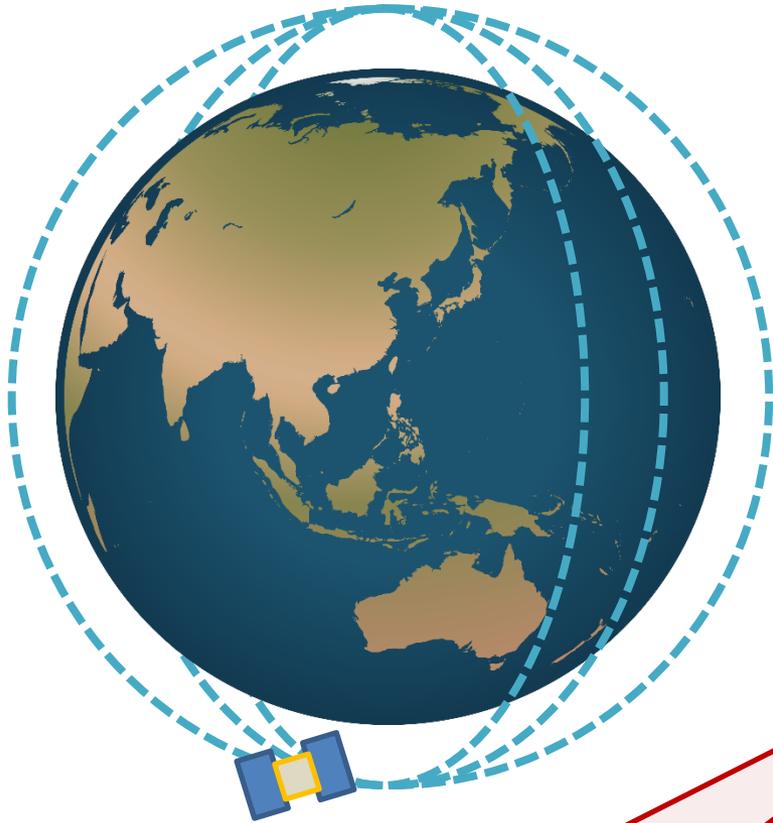
- **Filling the largest gap**
 - No SLR station exists below 37S.
- **Better geodetic products**
 - Geocentre, TRF Scale, Earth gravity, EOP.
- **Better satellite orbits**
 - SLR to cover the whole revolution.
- **No one did it in Antarctica.**

SLR data from 20190718 through 20190725 1200 UTC

- ETALON-1 19120 km 64.9 deg
- ★ ETALON-2 19120 km 65.5 deg
- AJISAI 1492 km 50 deg
- LAGEOS-1 5895 km 109 deg
- ◆ LAGEOS-2 5785 km 52 deg
- ◆ LARES 1450 km 69.5 deg
- ▼ STARLETTE 953 km 50 deg
- ▲ STELLA 795 km 99 deg



Effective for polar orbiters

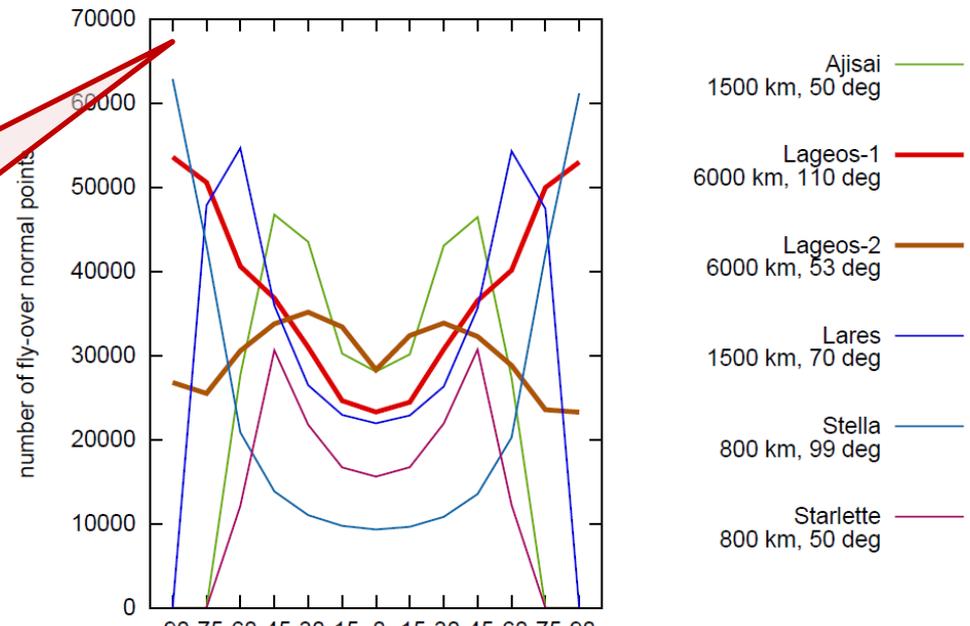


Polar orbiters fly over Antarctica every rev.

Polar orbit: ~ 90-deg inclination

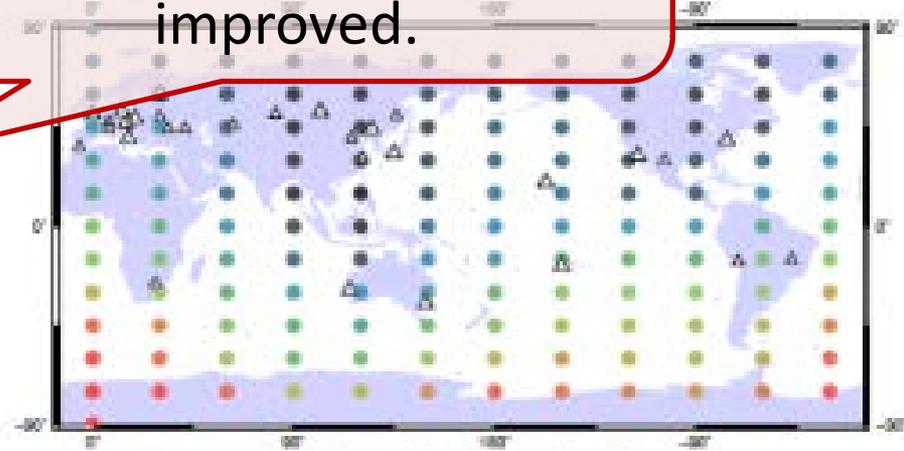
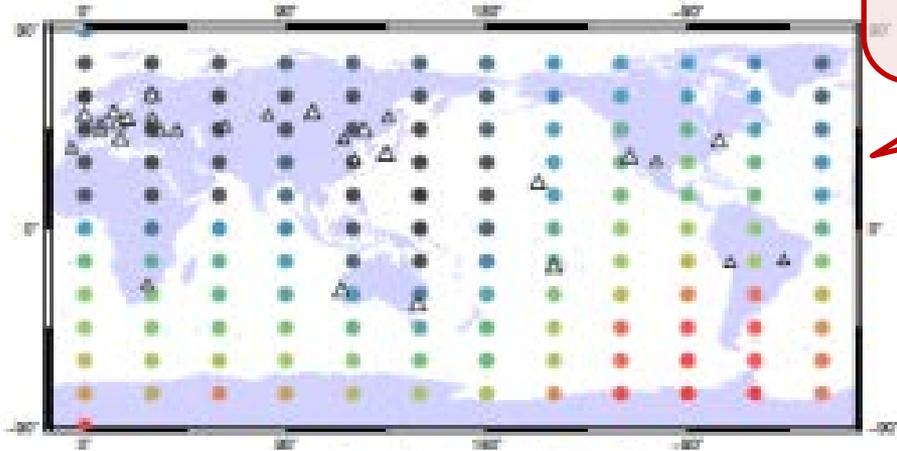
- Earth observations satellites incl GRACE, ICESAT, Cryosat, ...
- Possible application to satellite communications.

→ Collaboration with space agencies/projects?

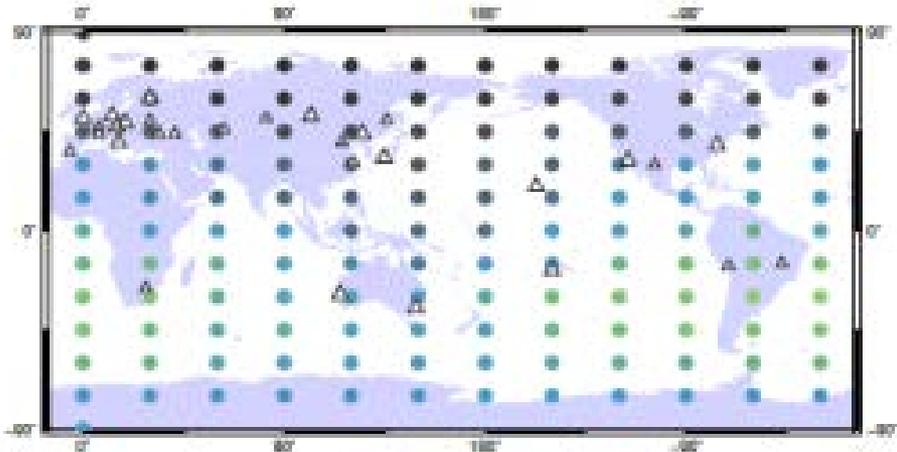


X & Y components of geocenter will be largely improved.

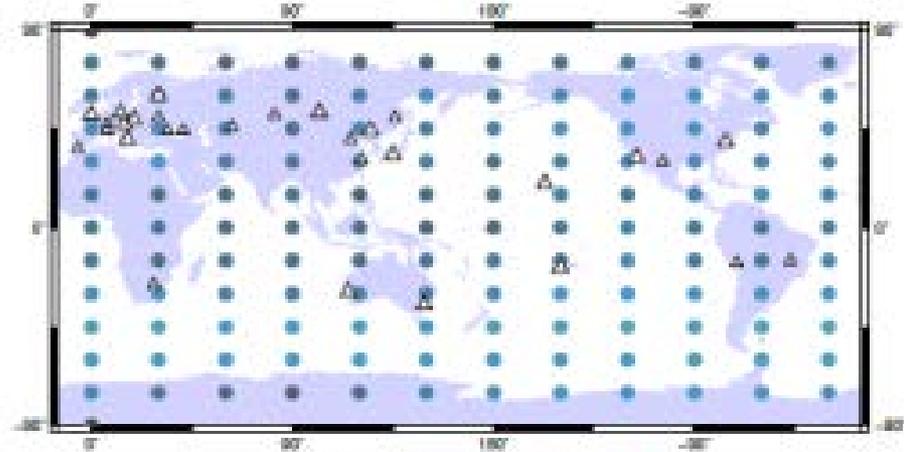
TX



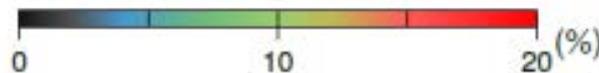
TZ

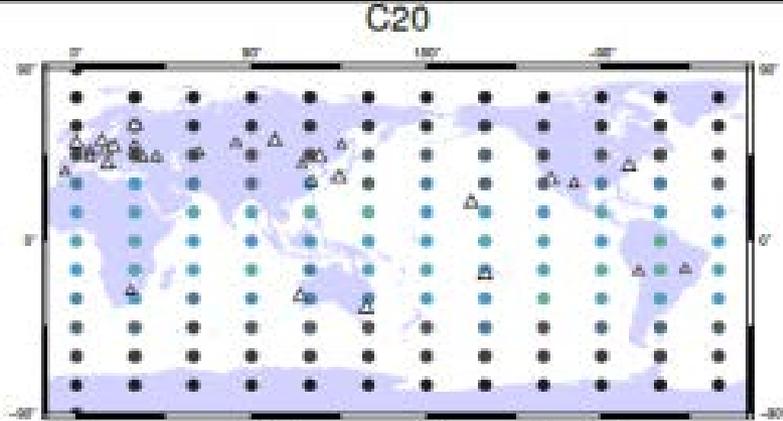


Scale

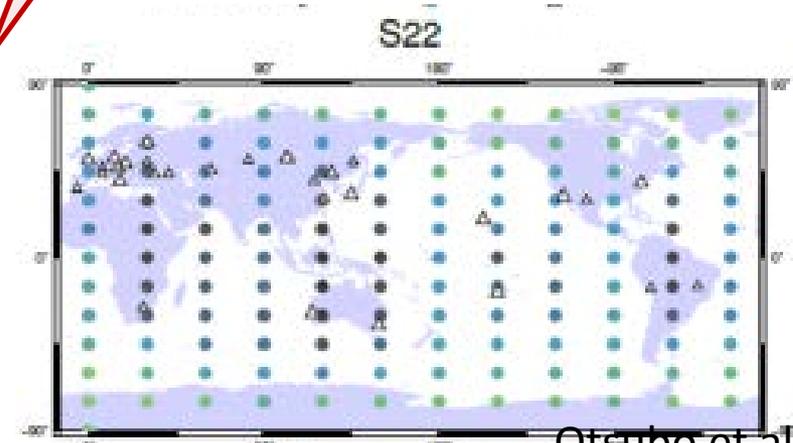
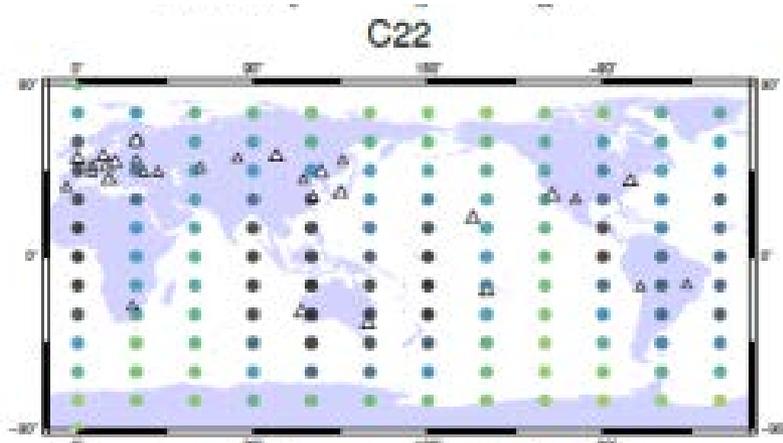
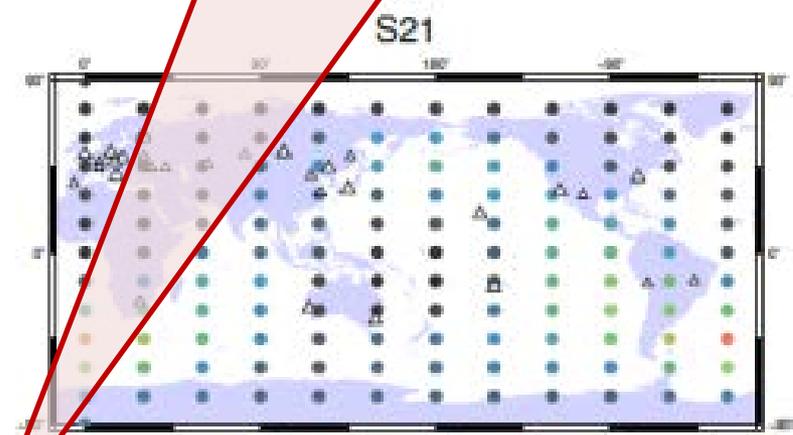
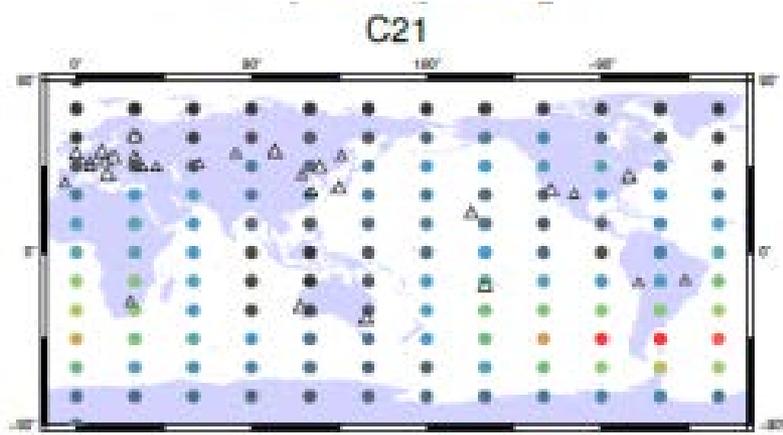


Improvement rate

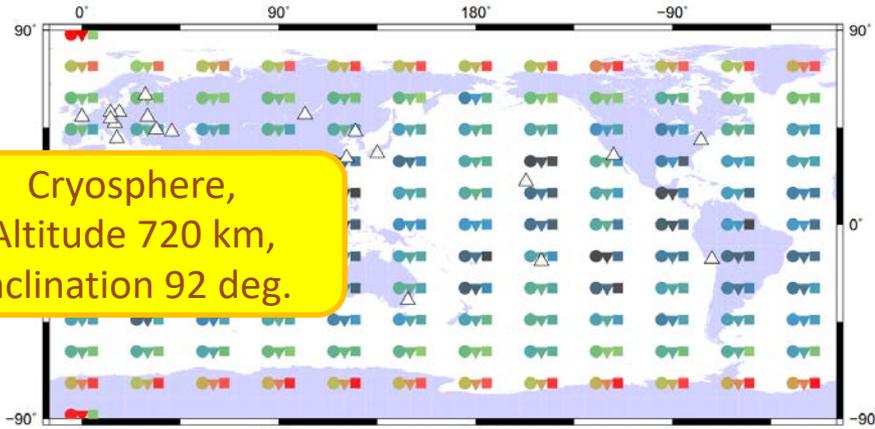




Sectoral terms will be improved.

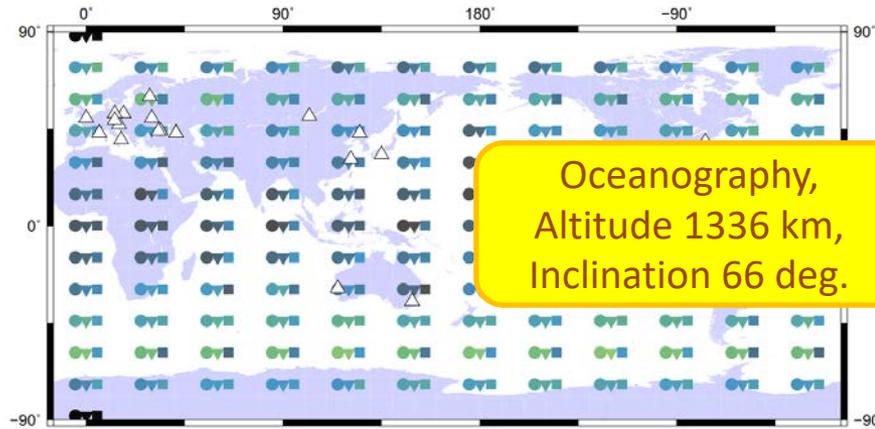


CRYOSAT-2



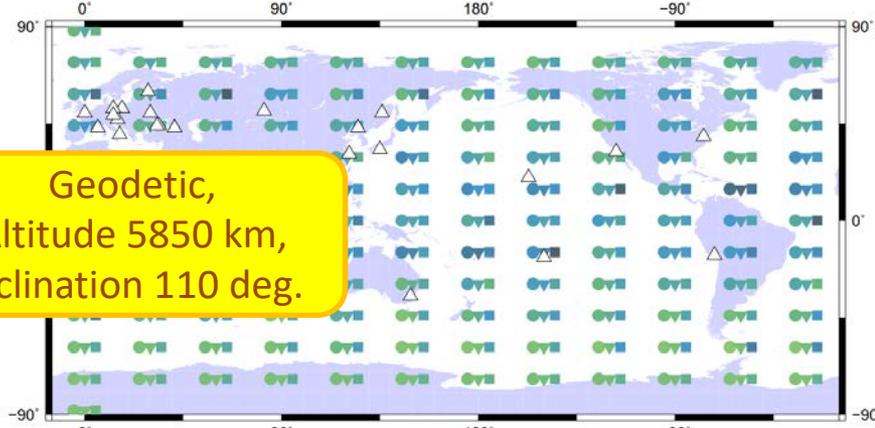
Cryosphere,
Altitude 720 km,
Inclination 92 deg.

JASON-2



Oceanography,
Altitude 1336 km,
Inclination 66 deg.

LAGEOS-1



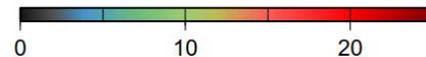
Geodetic,
Altitude 5850 km,
Inclination 110 deg.

LAGEOS-2



Geodetic,
Altitude 5625 km,
Inclination 53 deg.

Improvement ratio (%)



Existing stations

active for the satellite in Feb 2016



Virtual station's contributions

for along-track, radial and cross-track orbital components



ILRS TECHNICAL WORKSHOP 2019

Stuttgart 21st - 25th October



*Laser ranging: To improve economy,
performance, and adoption for new applications*

SLR: Latest trends and new applications

New Technologies

High-rate laser ranging using kHz ~ 100 kHz laser.

Infrared laser ranging with higher efficiency.

Innovative “zero-signature” satellite (e.g. BLITS-M).

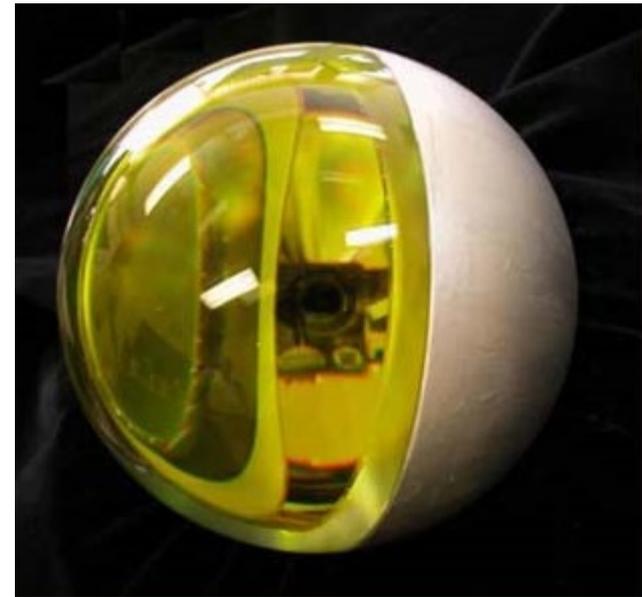
New Applications

Lunar & Deep-space projects.

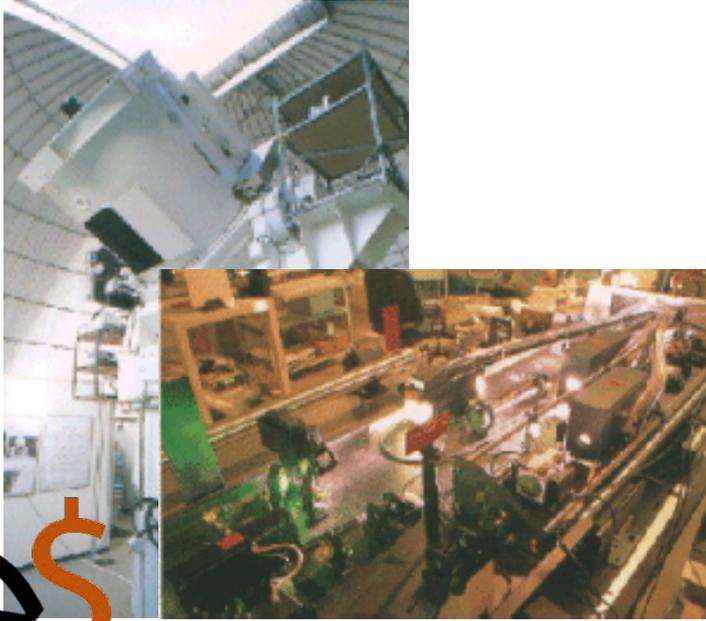
Space communications.

Space debris tracking.

Time transfer/comparison.



Low Cost? More Stations!



- SLR: Multi-million EUR/USD
→ 40 stations worldwide
- GNSS: 1% of SLR cost
→ 18,000 stations worldwide



Final remarks

Syowa to become a GGOS Core Station?

Budget hunting → Design & prototype testing

